BEFORE THE BOARD OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY STATE OF MONTANA

In the matter of the proposed) amendment of ARM 24.204.401) fee schedule, ARM 24.204.404 permit fees, ARM 24.204.406 abatement of renewal fees, ARM 24.204.408 radiologic technologists applications, ARM 24.204.411 replacement licenses and permits, ARM 24.204.504 permits - practice) limitations, ARM 24.204.511 permit examinations, and the)
proposed adoption of NEW RULES) I through IV pertaining to radiologist assistants, scope) of practice, supervision, and) adoption of a code of ethics

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND ADOPTION

TO: All Concerned Persons

- 1. On August 8, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., a public hearing will be held in room 489, Park Avenue Building, 301 South Park, Helena, Montana to consider the proposed amendment and adoption of the above-stated rules.
- 2. The Department of Labor and Industry will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public hearing or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the Board of Radiologic Technologists no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 5, 2005, to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Helena Lee, Board of Radiologic Technologists, 301 South Park, P.O. Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513; telephone (406) 841-2385; Montana Relay 1-800-253-4091; TDD (406) 444-2978; facsimile (406) 841-2305; e-mail dlibsdrts@mt.gov.
- 3. The rules proposed to be amended provide as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

24.204.401 FEE SCHEDULE (1) remains the same.

AUTH: 37-1-134, 37-14-202, MCA

IMP: 37-1-134, <u>37-14-305</u>, 37-14-309, 37-14-310, MCA

<u>REASON</u>: The Board of Radiologic Technologists (Board) has determined it is reasonably necessary to amend the implementation cites to accurately reflect all statutes

implemented through the rule and to delete references to repealed statutes.

24.204.404 PERMIT FEES

- (1) remains the same.
- (2) <u>Combined</u> <u>Examination</u> <u>examination</u> fee

and re-examination fee	<u>15</u>
(a) General exam	15
(b) Each section	15

- (3) through (5) remain the same.
- (6) Duplicate or lost license fee 5
- (7) and (8) remain the same but are renumbered (6) and (7).
 - (8) Document 20

AUTH: <u>37-1-131</u>, <u>37-1-134</u>, <u>37-14-202</u>, <u>37-14-306</u>, 37-14-310,

MCA

IMP: <u>37-1-134</u>, <u>37-14-305</u>, <u>37-14-306</u>, 37-14-309, 37-14-310,

MCA

REASON: The Board has determined it is reasonably necessary to amend ARM 24.204.404 in order to set the Board's fees at a level commensurate with program costs as required by 37-1-134, MCA. The Board's appropriation for fiscal year 2005 is \$56,960. The Board waived the renewal fees in both fiscal years 2003 and 2004 and is now addressing its duty of establishing fees commensurate with Board costs. In fiscal year 2004, the Board's annual revenue for examination fees was \$5,985. To date, in fiscal year 2005, the annual revenue for examination fees is \$6,630. In fiscal year 2006, the Board's annual revenue for the combined examination fee is anticipated to be \$1,200.

The Board has recently contracted with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) for the ARRT to administer the ARRT Limited Scope Examination, which includes a core portion and individual module examinations for selected anatomic regions. The Board will offer a combined examination consisting of the Gastrointestinal tract (GI), Abdomen (AB), and Hip/Pelvis examinations, as those anatomic regions are not tested through the ARRT Limited Scope Examination. Limited permit applicants who have successfully passed the ARRT Limited Scope Examination and desire to be permitted in the GI, AB, and Hip/Pelvis anatomic regions would need to take the Board combined examination and pay the appropriate fee. Board estimates that approximately 80 persons (20 examination applicants, 30 AB examination applicants and 30 hip/pelvis examination applicants) will be affected by the proposed combined examination. The examination fee remains the same for the combined examination as the former general and individual section examinations.

The Board is deleting the duplicate license/certificate fee, as licensees are now able to print multiple copies of a

license during the online renewal process. The Board does not have data on the number of duplicate licenses issued during the previous fiscal year; however, the Board has a general sense that an insignificant number of duplicates were issued.

The Board is adding a \$20.00 document fee for lists, labels, or disc fees. There were approximately 6 requests for licensee lists, labels or discs in fiscal year 2004 and the Board estimates a \$120 increase in revenue per fiscal year with the addition of this fee. Authority and implementation cites are being amended to accurately reflect all statutes implemented through the rule, to provide the complete sources of the Board's rulemaking authority and to delete references to repealed statutes.

24.204.406 ABATEMENT OF RENEWAL FEES (1) through (4) remain the same.

AUTH: 37 1 101 and 37-1-131, 37-14-202, MCA

IMP: 17-2-302, 17-2-303, 37 1 101, 37-1-134 and 37 14 310, MCA

<u>REASON</u>: The Board has determined it is reasonably necessary to amend the authority and implementation cites to accurately reflect all statutes implemented through the rule, to provide the complete sources of the Board's rulemaking authority and to delete references to repealed statutes.

24.204.408 RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS APPLICATIONS

- (1) through (4) remain the same.
- (5) An application for licensure shall be submitted to the board office with copies of the following documents:
 - (a) board approved 24 month x ray course certificate;
 - (b) current ARRT wallet card;
 - (c) remains the same but is renumbered (a).
 - (d) (b) application fee; and
 - (e) (c) original certificate fee. ; and either:
- (d) evidence of certification by the American registry of radiologic technologists (ARRT) in x-ray technology. This evidence shall consist of the applicant being listed in the current ARRT directory. When the applicant is not listed in the current ARRT directory, he or she shall submit to the board a certified copy issued by the ARRT of the original registration certificate; or
- (e) at the board's discretion, documentation of successful completion of a course of study in an approved school of radiologic technology as defined in 37-14-303, MCA, and having obtained a passing score on the examination in diagnostic radiologic technology given by the ARRT. A scaled score of 75 constitutes a passing score.
 - (6) remains the same.

AUTH: <u>37-1-131</u>, 37-14-202, MCA

IMP: 37-14-302, 37-14-303, 37-14-304, 37-14-305, 37-14-306, MCA

REASON: The Board has determined it is reasonably necessary to amend this rule to reconcile 37-1-203, MCA, with the Board's application requirements for radiologic technologist licensure. Pursuant to 37-1-203, MCA, Montana's licensing boards are prohibited from refusing licensure to an applicant solely on the basis of previous criminal conviction. Under the current rule, radiologic technologist applicants must submit, among other things, a current ARRT wallet card. However, applicants with past criminal convictions may not qualify for the official credential of the ARRT card due to the ARRT's ethical standards of conduct.

In response to a 2004 Montana district court decision and in order to accommodate applicants with criminal histories, the Board is amending this rule to no longer require a current ARRT card. The amended rule will require either evidence of the applicant's ARRT certification in x-ray technology or, at the Board's discretion, proof of successful completion of a radiologic technology course of study and passage of the ARRT diagnostic radiologic technology exam. Amendment of the rule ensures that license applicants meet the necessary education and exam requirements for qualified licensure, while advancing the intent and purpose of 37-1-203, MCA.

Authority and implementation cites are being amended to accurately reflect all statutes implemented through the rule, to provide the complete sources of the Board's rulemaking authority and to delete references to repealed statutes.

24.204.411 REPLACEMENT LICENSES AND PERMITS

(1) Licensees and permit holders shall immediately notify the board of lost, damaged, or destroyed licenses and permits and obtain a duplicate by written request to the board, stating the reason for the need to issue a duplicate and by paying the appropriate fee.

AUTH: <u>37-1-131</u>, 37-14-202, MCA

IMP: 37-14-305, 37-14-308, 37-14-309, MCA

REASON: The Board is deleting the duplicate license/certificate fee in ARM 24.204.404, as licensees are now able to print multiple copies of a license during the online renewal process. It is reasonable and necessary to amend this rule to correspond with the online printing capabilities and the amendments to ARM 24.204.404. Authority and implementation cites are being amended to accurately reflect all statutes implemented through the rule, to provide the complete sources of the Board's rulemaking authority and to delete references to repealed statutes.

- 24.204.504 PERMITS PRACTICE LIMITATIONS (1) through (3) remain the same.
- (4) A student of an ARRT recognized <u>a</u> radiologic technologist program <u>accredited by a mechanism recognized by the ARRT</u> is allowed to perform procedures with portable fluoroscopy equipment (also known as c-arm), provided the student has submitted documentation to the board that:
- (a) identifies the student as being enrolled in an ARRT recognized a radiology program accredited by a mechanism recognized by the ARRT;
 - (b) through (d) remain the same.
- (5) If a student of an ARRT recognized a radiologic technologist program accredited by a mechanism recognized by the ARRT has completed the first two semesters of the program or its equivalent, as determined by the board, and has become a limited permit holder, that person may perform procedures while operating portable fluoroscopy equipment and may be compensated.

AUTH: <u>37-1-131</u>, 37-14-202, MCA IMP: 37-14-301, 37-14-306, MCA

<u>REASON</u>: The Board has determined that there is reasonable necessity to amend terminology used in this rule to clarify that the ARRT does not itself recognize radiologic technologists programs. Students enroll in radiologic technology programs that are accredited by a mechanism recognized by the ARRT. An authority cite is being added to accurately reflect all sources of the Board's rulemaking authority.

- 24.204.511 PERMIT EXAMINATIONS (1) All limited permit applicants shall take and pass the ARRT limited scope of practice in radiology core examination.
- (a) The general portion of the permit ARRT limited scope core examination contains questions common to all areas of specified x-ray procedures and includes the following topics:
 - <u>(i)</u> basic radiobiology, ;
 - (ii) radiation protection, ;
 - <u>(iii)</u> imaging equipment, ;
 - <u>(iv)</u> x-ray physics, ;
- (v) radiographic technique and principles of radiographic exposure;
 - (vi) darkroom procedures; and
- <u>(vii)</u> inter_relationship interrelationship of the radiographic chain. All permit applicants shall pass the general portion of the permit examination.
- (2) In addition to the general portion ARRT limited scope core examination, 40-hour course graduates shall complete an a module examination for each specified x ray procedure selected anatomic regions in which the applicant desires to be permitted to perform.

- $\underline{\text{(a)}}$ The specified examinations Each module examination shall include questions $\underline{\text{common to the individual module}}$ in $\underline{\text{the}}$ following areas:

 - (i) anatomy-;
 (ii) physiology-;
 - (iii) pathology; and
 - (iv) x-ray technique common to the specified procedure.
- Limited permits are issued in Montana in the following five categories:
 - (i) chest;
 - (ii) extremities;
 - (iii) skull/sinuses;
 - (iv) spine; and
- (v) abdomen, qastrointestinal tract and hip/pelvis (state combined examination).
- (2) Applicants for examination may request to take the examination in the board office any day of the working week. This request must be in writing and must be received in the board office at least 10 days prior to the requested examination date.
- (3) Examination results will be mailed out to each examinee by the board office within 10 days after the administration of the examination.
- (3) "Combined examination" as used in this rule means the examination consisting of abdomen (AB), gastrointestinal tract (GI) (postfluoroscopy films only), and hip/pelvis examinations.
- Applicants may review their <u>combined</u> examination (4) papers with administrative staff for the board at the board office or at an approved site designated by the board.
- A non-refundable fee will be assessed for the combined examination. After failing the combined examination, the applicant will be required to submit another combined examination retake fee.
- Applicants for a limited 40-hour course permit (40hour course) who fail an examination twice must any portion of the ARRT limited scope examination (core or any module examination) on two attempts shall retake that be required to successfully complete additional coursework in the failed portion area(s) of the formal x ray training examination before being allowed admission to retake the failed portion(s) of the examination a third examination time. Upon completion of the additional course work in the failed area, the applicant must file a new application accompanied by the appropriate fees, with the board office.
 - (a) remains the same.
- Student permit applications applicants (having completed two semesters or its equivalent from a in an ARRT
 radiologic technology program accredited by a mechanism recognized by the ARRT) radiologic technologist program) who have failed the general examination twice must re take the general examination plus all six category exams fail the ARRT limited scope core examination on two attempts shall retake:
 - (a) the core examination;

- (b) all four individual module examinations; and
- (c) the state combined examination.
- (8) Temporary permit applicants (<u>graduates of a radiologic technology program accredited by a mechanism recognized by the ARRT recognized program graduates</u>) who have failed the ARRT <u>radiologic technologist exam examination</u> three times <u>must</u> shall take:
- (a) the general exam plus all six category exams ARRT limited scope core examination;
 - (b) all four individual module examinations; and
 - (c) the state combined examination.
- (9) A passing score of 75% is required on each of the general and specified sections of the examination. Retakes of any portion or section of an examination shall require a 75% passing score. A minimum passing score of 70% is required on the ARRT limited scope core examination, each module examination, and the state combined examination.
 - (10) remains the same.

AUTH: <u>37-1-131,</u> 37-14-202, MCA

IMP: 37-14-306, MCA

The Board has determined it is reasonably necessary to amend this rule to clarify the examination requirements for limited permit applicants. The ARRT limited scope of practice in radiology examination (core exam and individual modules) is nationally recognized entry-level limited The Board has determined to discontinue writing examination. its own examination for limited permit licensure of Montana radiologic technologists and to accept the ARRT limited scope The Board will administer a combined examination instead. examination to cover those areas not tested in the ARRT limited scope examination. The Board is also amending the rule to clarify the requirements for retaking the limited permit examination upon failure of the core or module component examinations. The Board concluded that requiring additional study in any failed topic areas prior to retesting is the best way to ensure that only qualified applicants are granted limited practice permits.

The Board determined it is reasonably necessary to reduce the acceptable minimum passing score on the limited permit examination from 75% to 70%. As approved in the July 2002 update of ARRT Evaluation of the Passing Score for the Limited Scope Examination, the mean score for the 2002 ARRT limited scope core examination was 66%. The Board determined the ARRT limited scope core examination is sufficiently difficult and that continuing with the current 75% passing score would result in needless failure of a majority of limited permit examinees. Subsequently, the Board concluded that requiring a minimum passing score of 70% on the limited scope core examination, individual module examinations and the combined examination is sufficient to ensure qualified limited permit applicants for licensure. The Board has determined it is

reasonably necessary to define "combined examination" to clarify the Board's intent as to the meaning of the term used in this rule.

Several sections of the rule have been further earmarked and renumbered for clarity and ease of use. An authority cite is being added to accurately reflect all sources of the Board's rulemaking authority.

4. The proposed NEW RULES provide as follows:

- (2) To practice as a RA/RPA, an applicant shall:
- (a) be a graduate of a RA educational program that:
- (i) culminates in the award of a baccalaureate degree, postbaccalaureate certificate, or master's degree from an institution accredited by a mechanism recognized by either:
 - (A) ARRT;
 - (B) American college of radiology; or
 - (C) American society of radiologic technologists; and
- (ii) incorporates a radiologist-directed clinical preceptorship; and
- (iii) meets the eligibility requirements for certification by the ARRT.
- (A) The board will accept certification from the ARRT or the certification board for radiologist practitioner assistant (CBRPA) for eligibility to sit for the CBRPA certification or ARRT examination;
- (b) maintain an active ARRT registration status in radiography;
- (c) submit a copy of current certification in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) skills;
- (d) furnish validation of participation in continuing education activities with a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education credits annually;
- (e) hold a current Montana radiologic technologist (RT) license; and
- (f) submit to the board a letter from the supervising radiologist certifying completion of a clinical preceptorship.

AUTH: 37-1-131, 37-14-202, 37-14-313, MCA IMP: 37-14-313, MCA

<u>REASON</u>: The 2003 Montana Legislature enacted Chapter 307, Laws of 2003 (House Bill 501), regarding the practice of radiologist assistants. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 14, 2003, became effective on October 1, 2003, and is codified at Title 37, chapter 14, Montana Code Annotated (MCA). There is reasonable necessity to adopt New Rules I through IV to implement the 2003 legislation.

The Board has determined it is reasonably necessary to adopt New Rule I to further implement 37-14-313, MCA, by establishing qualifications for licensed radiologic technologists to perform the functions of radiologist assistants/radiology practitioner assistants (RA/RPA). The Board determined that the qualifications as set forth in New Rule I are necessary to protect the public by ensuring that only qualified licensed radiologic technologists are functioning as RA/RPAs.

NEW RULE II SCOPE OF PRACTICE - SPECIFIC DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS (1) The RA/RPA shall evaluate the day's schedule of procedures with the supervising radiologist or the radiologist designate and determine where the RA/RPA's skills will be best utilized.

- (2) After demonstrating competency, the RA/RPA, under the general supervision of the supervising radiologist or the radiologist designate, may perform the following procedures:
 - (a) fluoroscopic procedures (static and dynamic);
 - (b) arthrograms, pursuant to 37-14-301, MCA; and
 - (c) peripheral venograms, pursuant to 37-14-301, MCA.
- (3) The RA/RPA may make initial observations of diagnostic images and forward them to the supervising radiologist.
- (4) The RA/RPA shall assess and evaluate the psychological and physiological responsiveness of each patient.
- (5) The RA/RPA shall participate in patient management, including acquisition of additional imaging for completion of the exam and record documentation in medical records.
- (6) The RA/RPA shall administer intravenous contrast media or glucagon under the supervision of a radiologist or the attending physician pursuant to 37-14-301, MCA.
- (7) "Radiologist designate", as used in this rule, means a radiologist, MD who has been named radiologist designate by the supervising radiologist, MD. The radiologist designate must reside in Montana and have a current Montana license.

AUTH: 37-1-131, 37-14-202, 37-14-313, MCA IMP: 37-14-102, 37-14-301, 37-14-313, MCA

REASON: The Board has determined that New Rule II is reasonably necessary to comply with and further implement 37-14-313, MCA, by specifying the allowable duties and functions of licensed radiologic technologists functioning as RA/RPAs. As required in 37-14-313, MCA, the proposed duties and functions are consistent with guidelines established by the American College of Radiology (ACR), the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), and the ARRT. New Rule II provides the scope of practice for the RA/RPA as an "advanced-level licensed radiologic technologist who works under the general supervision of a radiologist to enhance patient care by assisting the radiologist in the diagnostic imaging

environment" per 37-14-102, MCA. The RA/RPA shall not interpret radiological examinations nor transmit observations to anyone other than to the RA/RPA's supervising radiologist.

The Board has determined it is reasonably necessary to define "radiologist designate" to clarify the Board's intent as to the meaning of the word used within the New Rules.

NEW RULE III SCOPE OF REQUIRED SUPERVISION (1) A RA/RPA may only perform diagnostic procedures under the general supervision of a licensed radiologist. In order for a RA/RPA to be considered under the general supervision of a radiologist, the RA/RPA must:

- (a) meet with the supervising radiologist on a regularly scheduled basis of not less than once every month;
- (b) provide the supervising radiologist with copies of records from procedures the RA/RPA has performed;
- (c) seek input from the supervising radiologist regarding any issues relating to the RA/RPA's performance of diagnostic procedures; and
- (d) have a means of contacting the radiologist in order to obtain a timely consultation.
- (i) Consultations with the supervising radiologist are considered timely if the radiologist replies to the RA/RPA within eight hours of the RA/RPA's request for consultation.
- (2) Consultations with the supervising radiologist shall be conducted as needed:
 - (a) in person;
 - (b) by telephone;
 - (c) by interactive videoconferencing; or
- (d) by electronic means of communication, such as e-mail or picture, archives, and communication system (PACS).
- (3) The RA/RPA shall not perform any diagnostic procedure for which a consultation is needed or appropriate, until such time as consultation has occurred and the RA/RPA has been advised or directed by the radiologist on how to proceed.

AUTH: 37-1-131, 37-14-202, 37-14-313, MCA

IMP: 37-14-102, 37-14-313, MCA

REASON: The Board has determined that adoption of New Rule III is reasonably necessary to comply with legislative intent of 37-14-313, MCA. The Board proposes New Rule III to further delineate and describe the general supervision requirements for the licensed radiologic technologists functioning as RA/RPAs in Montana. The proposed scope of required supervision is consistent with the supervision requirements of the ACR, ASRT, and ARRT, as required in 37-14-313, MCA.

NEW RULE IV CODE OF ETHICS (1) The board adopts and incorporates by reference the July 2003 edition of the code of ethics adopted by the ARRT.

- (2) Copies of the ARRT code of ethics may be obtained on the ARRT website at www.arrt.org, or from the office of the board at 301 S. Park Avenue, Helena, or P.O. Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513.
- (3) The RA/RPA shall adhere to and abide by the ARRT code of ethics.
- (4) In addition to the ARRT code of ethics, the conduct of the RA/RPA shall be governed by the following additional ethical and professional principles. The RA/RPA shall:
- (a) adhere to all state and federal laws governing informed consent concerning patient health care;
- (b) seek consultation with the supervising radiologist, other health providers, or qualified professionals having special skills, knowledge or expertise whenever the welfare of the patient will be safeguarded or advanced by such consultation;
- (c) provide only those services for which the RA/RPA is qualified via education, demonstration of clinical competency, and as allowed by rule;
- (d) not misrepresent in any manner, either directly or indirectly, the RA/RPA's clinical skills, educational experience, professional credentials, identity, or ability and capability to provide radiology health care services;
 - (e) place service before material gain;
- (f) carefully guard against conflicts of professional interest; and
- (g) adhere to national, institutional and/or departmental standards, policies and procedures regarding the standards of care for patients.

AUTH: 37-1-131, 37-14-202, 37-14-313, MCA IMP: 37-14-313, MCA

REASON: The Board has determined that adoption of the ARRT code of ethics in New Rule IV is reasonable and necessary to further implement 37-14-313, MCA, and further delineate the allowable duties and scope of practice for RA/RPAs that are consistent with the guidelines of ARRT, ACR and ASRT. The ARRT code of ethics is uniformly interpreted and enforced by these three entities. Adoption of a code of ethics will provide an ethical framework for the practice of RA/RPAs that will also assist the Board in preserving public health and safety by promoting the quality practice of RA/RPAs.

- 5. Concerned persons may present their data, views or arguments either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views or arguments may also be submitted to the Board of Radiologic Technologists, 301 South Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513, by facsimile to (406) 841-2305, or by e-mail to dlibsdrts@mt.gov, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., August 16, 2005.
- 6. An electronic copy of this Notice of Public Hearing is available through the Department and Board's site on the

World Wide Web at www.radiology.mt.gov. The Department strives to make the electronic copy of this Notice of Public Hearing conform to the official version of the Notice, as printed in the Montana Administrative Register, but advises all concerned persons that in the event of a discrepancy between the official printed text of the Notice and the electronic version of the Notice, only the official printed text will be considered. In addition, although the Department strives to keep its website accessible at all times, concerned persons should be aware that the website may be unavailable during some periods, due to system maintenance or technical problems, and that a person's technical difficulties in accessing or posting to the e-mail address do not excuse late submission of comments.

- 7. The Board of Radiologic Technologists maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this Board. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request, which includes the name and mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies that the person wishes to receive notices regarding all Board of Radiologic Technologists administrative rulemaking proceedings or other administrative proceedings. Such written request may be mailed or delivered to the Board of Radiologic Technologists, 301 South Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200513, Helena, Montana 59620-0513, faxed to the office at (406) 841-2305, e-mailed to dlibsdrts@mt.gov, or may be made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the agency.
- 8. The bill sponsor notice requirements of 2-4-302, MCA, apply and have been fulfilled.
- 9. Lon Mitchell, attorney, has been designated to preside over and conduct this hearing.

BOARD OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS JOHN ROSENBAUM, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ KEITH KELLY
Keith Kelly, Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

/s/ DARCEE L. MOE
Darcee L. Moe
Alternate Rule Reviewer

Certified to the Secretary of State July 1, 2005